No.362 May 2025

Koshigaya Messenger

Issued around the 5th of every month. It can also be read on the website. **Inquiries:** International Affairs (KOKUSAI KA) Community Activity Support Section (SHIMIN KATSUDO SHIEN KA) City Hall, Main Building-3F, Tel. 048-963-9114



Website



Consultation Services for Foreign Residents

In Koshigaya City, foreigners can access support and assistance in multiple languages at the following consultation desks.

> <u>City Hall</u>'s consultation desk

Main Services include:

- ♦ Language support: An interpreter can accompany you to the relevant department.
- ♦ Offers useful information for living in Japan (e.g. Japanese classes information)
- Provides appropriate desk or hotline's information for specific questions or concerns
 Location: Community Activity Support Section (SHIMIN KATSUDO SHIEN KA),

City Hall, Main Bldg.-3F *7-minute walk from Koshigaya Station East Exit **Business Hours**: 9:00AM to 4:30 PM

Closed Days: Saturdays, Sundays and national holidays

Supported Languages: English, Chinese, Filipino, Vietnamese and more For Inquiries: Tel. 048-963-9114

Community Activity Support Center's consultation desk (Opened in April) Main Services include:

♦ Offers useful information for living in Japan (e.g. Japanese classes information)

 \diamond Legal specialists give you advice on administrative procedures, legal matters, etc.

Supported Languages: English, Chinese and more

Location: Community Activity Support Center (SHIMIN KATSUDO SHIEN CENTER),

TWIN CITY, B CITY-5F *1-minute walk from Koshigaya Station East Exit **Business Hours**: 10:00AM to 4:30 PM on any days of the week

Closed Days: From December 29 to January 3

Consultation Schedule & Reservation Form

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Themes	Visa, international marriage,	Legal matters						
	administrative procedures and more							
Date	The 3 rd Wednesday	The 4 th Wednesday						
Date	every month	every month						
Reservation Form								

For Inquiries: Directly visit the office or send a message from the QR code on the right.





A Disaster Drill Will be Held for Foreign Residents

In Japan, natural disasters (earthquakes, floods, etc.) happen quite often. Therefore, we need to prepare in advance to protect our beloved family and ourselves from dangers.

This year, a disaster drill will be held on June 7. Anyone can join. If you need language support during the event, volunteers can help you (appointment required). At the end of the event, we will give small gifts to every participant.

Drill Date: Saturday, June 7, 9:00AM - 12:00Noon

*Reception starts at 8:30AM. Venue: Koshigaya City Fire Department

*About 8-minute walk from Kita-Koshigaya Station East Exit Application: Apply online, by telephone or in person by Monday, June 2. Inquiries: Community Activity Support Section (SHIMIN KATSUDO SHIEN KA)

City Hall, Main Bldg-3F, Tel. 048-963-9114,

Business Hours: 9:00AM to 5:00PM on weekdays

Supported Languages: English, Filipino, Chinese and Vietnamese Note: Check more detailed information on the city website, which you can access from the QR code at the top of the front page of this paper.

Bicycle Safety Tips

According to road traffic laws in Japan, a bicycle is classified as a light vehicle. This means that riders must follow the traffic rules and safety regulations as drivers of other vehicles. Here are 5 key cycling rules that everyone must know.

- 1. Ride on the left side of the roadways. Sidewalk riding is an exception, and pedestrians have the right of way.
- 2. Obey traffic lights and stop signs at intersections.
- 3. Use bicycle lights after dark.
- 4. Cycling after drinking alcohol is strictly prohibited.
- 5. Riders should wear a helmet.

Disaster Preparedness Guidebook in Multiple Languages

When natural disasters (floods, earthquakes, etc.) happen, you must act wisely to minimize damages and protect your lives. Therefore, it is advised to get the accurate knowledge before something happens. In Koshigaya City, there are Disaster Preparedness Guidebook written in multiple languages. You can get a copy of it online and at the following departments in City Hall, Main Bldg.- 3F:

- Crisis Management Office (KIKI KANRI SHITSU)
- Community Activity Support Section (SHIMIN KATSUDO SHIEN KA). Japanese version English, Chinese, Vietnamese and Simple Japanese version





For Inquiries: Crisis Management Office (KIKI KANRI SHITSU), Tel. 048-963-9285





Free Event!

Online

application

form 1



"TOMONI ARUKO" Hello everyone, My name is Dan. I'm working for Koshigaya City Office as a CIR (coordinator of International Relations) in charge of Chinese interpretation, etc.

In this month, I'd like to share my thoughts on community participation among immigrants from a perspective of a foreigner living in Japan.

The illustration on the left was drawn by Saiinji-san.

Let's Walk Together:

"Together, we can build connected communities!"

Japan is currently facing serious challenges such as declining birth rate and an aging population. In response, the government has introduced various measures to attract foreign talent. As a result, the number of foreign people living in Japan reached 3,768,977* by the end of 2024 – an increase of 10.8% compared to the number of previous year and the highest figure ever recorded. Among them, foreigners with a working visa continue to grow rapidly. While some of them choose to return to their home countries at the right time for them, still many people wish to continue living in Japan.

We foreigner residents in Japan have certain obligations, such as paying taxes. At the same time, we are entitled to access public services, including healthcare and education.

Many of us hope to build a safe and comfortable life here while becoming part of the local community. We make efforts to adapt to Japanese cultures and values - following the saying, "When in Rome, do as the Romans do".

However, cultural and language barriers can sometimes make it difficult to fully integrate into society. Understanding traditional rules and unspoken social norms in Japan can be challenging. Building close relationships with Japanese people is not always easy either.

Because of these difficulties, some foreign residents tend to stay within communities of similar ethnic or cultural backgrounds.

While having your own cultural community is important and comforting, it can also mean limit opportunities for deeper interaction with Japanese society. If the gap continues to grow, it could lead to miscommunication and even conflicts.

To create a happier and more inclusive society, it's important for all of us – regardless of nationality- to come together and shape our shared future. Each of us is a member of this community, and we all have a role to play. Taking part in local events, volunteering, or simply making an effort to understand one another can help build a more connected and harmonious society.

So don't be afraid to step outside your comfort zone and try new things, even if they seem daunting at first.

And if you have any difficulties in living in Japan and need help, come to our consultation counter. Let us assist you for your happier living experiences in Japan.

*This data is retrieved from the website of Immigration Services Agency of Japan.

Japanese Classes in Koshigaya City for May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 ★ <i>Nihongo de GO!</i> (Coop Plaza Koshigaya)	3 ★Lingual Koshigaya
4	5	6	7 ★Nihongo Circle	8	9 ★ <i>Nihongo de GO!</i> (Minami Koshigaya Community Center)	10 ★Lingual Koshigaya ★Kosumo Kodomo Kyoshitsu ★Kosumo Nihongo Salon Sengendai
11	12	13	14 ★Nihongo Circle	15	16 ★ <i>Nihongo de GO!</i> (Coop Plaza Koshigaya)	17 ★Lingual Koshigaya ★Tabunka Kodomo Gakushu Juku ★Kosumo Kodomo Kyoshitsu ★Kosumo Nihongo Salon Sengendai
18	19	20	21 ★Nihongo Circle ★Kosumo Nihongo Salon	22	23 ★ <i>Nihongo de GO!</i> (Minami Koshigaya Community Center)	24 ★Lingual Koshigaya ★Kosumo Kodomo Kyoshitsu ★Kosumo Nihongo Salon Sengendai
25	26	27	28 ★Nihongo Circle ★Kosumo Nihongo Salon	29	30	31 ★Lingual Koshigaya ★Tabunka Kodomo Gakushu Juku

CLASS NAME	TIME	ACCESS/ INFORMATION		
NIHONGO CIRCLE [¥ 100 PER LESSON] *Childcare services: ¥100	Wednesday 10:00am – 12:00noon	VENUE: Central Community Center 4F/5F (ADDRESS: Koshigaya 4-1-1) STATION: Koshigaya Station East Exit (7-min. walk) INFORMATION: 2048-974-5642 (SHIRATA-SAN)		
Kosumo Nihongo Salon [¥100 per lesson]	Wednesday 7:00pm – 8:30pm	VENUE: Community Activity Support Center (ADDRESS: Koshigaya-shi Yayoi-cho 16-1, TWIN CITY, B CITY-5F) STATION: Koshigaya Station East Exit (1-min. walk) INFORMATION: 2090-5347-2041 (KOJIMA-SAN)		
NIHONGO DE GO! Friday 1:30pm – 3:30pm		 (1) VENUE: Coop Plaza Koshigaya (ADDRESS: Minami Koshigaya 5-4-37) STATION: Shin Koshigaya Station West Exit (6-min. walk) (2) VENUE: Minami Koshigaya Community Center – Palette (ADDRESS: Minami Koshigaya 4-21-1) STATION: Shin Koshigaya Station West Exit (5-min. walk) INFORMATION: 2090-5574-7070 (TAKAYAMA-SAN) 		
LINGUAL KOSHIGAYA 【FREE OF CHARGE】	Saturday 10:00am – 12:00noon	VENUE: Central Community Center 4F/5F (ADDRESS: Koshigaya 4-1-1) STATION: Koshigaya Station East Exit (7-min. walk) INFORMATION: 2080-3478-3314 (SUZUKI-SAN)		
TABUNKA KODOMO GAKUSHU JUKU 【FREE OF CHARGE】	Saturday (1 st & 3 rd) 1:30pm – 3:30pm	VENUE: Community Activity Support Center (ADDRESS: Koshigaya-shi Yayoi-cho 16-1 TWIN CITY, B CITY-5F) STATION: Koshigaya Station East Exit (1-min. walk) INFORMATION: 2090-7422-2002 (OGAWA-SAN)		
KOSUMO KODOMO KYOSHITSU & KOSUMO NIHONGO SALON SENGENDAI [FREE OF CHARGE]	Saturday 1:30pm – 3:30pm	VENUE: Saitama Resona Sengendai Branch-3F, Resona Youth Base (ADDRESS: Koshigya-shi Sengendai Nishi1-5-17) STATION: Sengendai Station West Exit (3-min. walk) INFORMATION: 2090-8310-9522 (INCHARGE)		